

Comment	Response
<p>I am in total agreement with the proposed changes. It will be a great improvement.</p>	<p>Throughout this document, we respond “ok” if there is no specific question needing response. “ok” does not mean approval or disapproval, but simple acknowledgment that the comment is understood.</p>
<p>This is to share my support for the proposal that calls for re-aligning and replacing Chair 2 with a lift that would come directly from Lodge 2, go over the top, and down into the currently undeveloped N-NW third of the mountain as well as new runs and glade skiing in the expanded terrain.</p>	<p>ok</p>
<p>Will someone be posting minutes from the meeting somewhere? I can’t make it either.</p>	<p>A summary of all comments at the meeting, as well as those from emails and letters will be posted on the Washington State Parks webpage http://www.parks.wa.gov/plans/mtspokane/ in about two weeks. We will send a notice when it is up to all who have provided comments up to now.</p>
<p>Comments by Betsy Cowles submitted at the Mt. Spokane hearing 10/4/06</p> <p>I am here in three capacities: first, representing the family that gave large tracks of land about 75 years ago to help create Mt. Spokane State Park, second, as an avid skier and hiker and third, as Chairman of Cowles Company. Our Inland Empire Paper Company timberland borders a significant portion of the park.</p> <p>As we look at the future of Mt. Spokane, we must understand the past. While the Olmsted Brothers were planning parks for the City of Spokane, community leaders were also looking north to Mt. Spokane. These private civic leaders began the building of Mt. Spokane to be what they called “a year-around playground.” Recreation and tourism was front and center.</p> <p>My great-grandfather, grandfather and great uncle all donated large tracks of land during that formation era. My great uncle was the first president of the non-profit Mt. Spokane Association, which was formed to help develop what would become Mt. Spokane State Park. It was all about opening up recreation to the citizens of the area. They wanted people up on the mountain enjoying what it had to offer. Had they not wanted it that way, the land would never have been given. It would have been reserved for private use and posted with no trespassing signs. Instead, this was an exciting era and one of enthusiasm for skiing and recreation for all.</p> <p>What an amazing thing they built! Mt. Spokane is truly a “year-around playground,” which I have enjoyed all my life. I applaud the Advisory Committee for its hard work on balancing user group needs and coming up with a terrific plan to accommodate competing needs, including sensitivity to important environmental concerns. Their effort and process should be a model for other parks. I urge State Parks to embrace that process and the work they did.</p>	<p>For the most part, we have excluded names from the comment list. In this situation, Betsy had made a specific reference to her role as a presenter at the October 3, public meeting.</p>

<p>From our company's perspective the Park and the Park users have been good neighbors. Hikers, bikers, berry pickers, riders, skiers and snowmobilers have learned to be respectful of the woods. Treading lightly and leaving it nice for the next person. An expansion of the ski area and the trail system would be terrific. It would ease the pressure on the heavily used other side of the mountain, and would re-enforce the importance of stewardship through the shared uses of the trail systems.</p> <p>With growing population in the area and growing focus in our region on our outdoor recreation as an economic development recruiting tool, this expansion is important to our entire region. It is right thing because: First, the founders of the park intended recreation and frankly, were fired up about skiing. Second, because of its location, Mt. Spokane is this region's backyard playground. Hundreds of thousands of people use the mountain every year because it is close, it is economical and it is beautiful. Third, the state ought to be proud about promoting affordable quality family recreation. Just come up some Saturday and see how many kids are skiing and boarding, many of them without the resources to travel to farther away mountains or more expensive resorts. Fourth, a good master plan accommodates multiple needs and uses. This one does just that. Thank you.</p>	
<p>I am pleased and excited to have heard about the proposed changes for the ski area at Mt. Spokane. Extending Chair 2 and expanding the ski area onto the north and northwest sides of the mountain are long overdue.</p> <p>I have skied at Mt. Spokane since the 1954/55 season. I remember how terrific the ski area was then. AND, how awful the ski concession was during the "Souder years". It was so awful then that I refused to ski at Mt. Spokane for many years. When Mt. Spokane 2000 was granted the lease I rejoiced with many of my ski buddies and friends. Things began to change for the better.</p> <p>What noticeable changes have I seen? Just for starters, the facilities are clean and maintained properly. In the "bad old days", it looked like the bathrooms got cleaned about once every ninety days – whether they needed it or not. Another huge change, the employees are easily identified and go out of their way to be friendly and helpful. Before Mt. Spokane 2000 it was usual and customary for the employees to be unkempt, surely, and rude. Frequently those employees were smoking (not sure what necessarily), swearing, and telling off-color jokes - - usually with children in close proximity.</p> <p>How have these changes affected the skiing public? It looks like sales are up. The parking lot is almost always full on weekends and moderately full on weekdays and nights. For the first time in many years, bus service from Spokane is needed to bring younger skiers to the mountain. For the past three seasons at least one and more often two busses bring skiers and snowboarders to the mountain. Each bus has a chaperone who is one of the Mt. Spokane Mountain Hosts on the bus to check riders on in the morning and make sure all the same riders get on the right bus in the afternoon.</p> <p>So, if things are going so well, you might ask why an expansion of the</p>	<p>ok</p>

<p>ski area is needed. Of course, part of the reason is to accommodate the larger crowds. However, the most pressing need – in my opinion – is competition. Skiing/snowboarding is a competitive industry. Other ski areas in the Spokane region – direct competitors to Mt. Spokane – continue to expand/enlarge and improve their operations. A lot of press coverage is given to these competitors as well as considerable word-of-mouth between the skiers and snowboarders. 49 Degrees North has cut many new runs into their East Basin area and have installed a new chair lift into that area this summer. This has created considerable stir in the region. Schweitzer Mountain continues to be the dominant destination in the region. Silver Mountain is developing their base area. Lookout Pass Ski Area has added a new chairlift for their “backside” and nearly doubled the ski terrain there. Only Mt. Spokane has stayed with the status quo and not enlarged the operation. Same old mountain, same old runs - - same old, same old. You see, not much to talk about or enthuse the customers. Without growth, Mt. Spokane doesn’t have much to talk about while all the others have lots new to show the skiing public. Ultimately, I believe that without growth, the mountain will begin to lose its competitive edge AND begin to lose customers. This wouldn’t be good for anyone.</p> <p>Extending Chair 2 onto the other side of the mountain has got many people excited. Gotten them talking about the mountain. It is a concrete example of the good things that Mt. Spokane 2000 is doing for the mountain. Please consider the expansion favorably and allow the mountain management to proceed immediately.</p>	
<p>I wish to extend my most enthusiastic support for the expansion of the Mt Spokane alpine ski area and park. I learned to ski there in the early fifties at night as I had a weekend job in high school. I have long been a Schweitzer Mtn season pass holder and now approaching age 68 I have been skiing Mt Spokane and 49 Degrees North more than Schweitzer because they are both so family oriented, friendly and have excellent skiing. But, it could be <i>so much better</i>. Better to handle more people, better by creating a more safe ski environment by spreading out skiers/boarders and better by reducing congestion caused by outdated chairlift placement and crowd management. Two of our adult sons and their families are also season pass holders for the first time this year, in addition to their Schweitzer passes. I am sympathetic to environmental concerns but feel the proposed expansion is crucial to having an adequate, safe recreational area for the growing number of Spokane area families.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>	ok
<p>I want to express my wholehearted support for expansion of the Mt. Spokane Alpine Ski Resort. The ski area is very popular and it is especially helpful to local people in the Spokane area because it is less expensive and it cost much less to drive to. Expanding to the "backside" will just add to the quality and will open up an area that will have very good snow conditions because of a northern exposure.</p> <p>The new operators have done a wonderful job of making the ski resort a pleasant place to visit and are constantly working to upgrade the facilities.</p> <p>I also support the Cross-country ski area. It gets a tremendous amount of usage and it considered one of the best cross-country areas in the</p>	ok

<p>US.</p> <p>The whole Mt. Spokane State Park gets a lot of use. I think it is great to have such wonderful facility in our "backyard".</p>	
<p>I was thrilled to read about the Mount Spokane proposed plan in the "outdoors" section of the Sunday edition of the Spokesman Review. Our family of four cross country ski, downhill ski, and hike.</p> <p>We would use a 2.3 mile addition to the cross country trail system, especially if it was more gentle than the existing trails, to skate ski. There is nowhere else near us to do this sport!! We would be frequent users!!</p> <p>Also, we have just recently started downhill skiing at Mt. Spokane again. We are so impressed with the improvements on the mountain, and we feel confident that the Mt. Spokane Board would do as responsible a job expanding any downhill area.</p> <p>We have so much forest that is undisturbed in the Inland Northwest and in Southern British Columbia (and we are old time pack packers and hikers!) that we do not feel that developing 800 acres of land next to Mt. Spokane and Spokane residents could do anything but bolster support for the environment and outdoor appreciation. That area has been logged in the past and is not old growth or pristine.</p> <p>We think that our community has everything to gain and nothing to lose by this plan. Thank you for all of your efforts!</p>	ok
<p>I will be unable to attend tonights meeting. I do want to say that I think the expansion of the mountain would be a wonderful idea. It is a great little mountain, and my husband and I have been skiing there, with season passes since we moved to Spokane in 1989. Please do the expansion!!!!</p>	ok
<p>As a relative new comer to the area - three years, and a season pass holder for the past three years I would pass on my words of encouragement to continue to develop the recreational use of the park area.</p>	Ok
<p>I am a long time resident and skier at Mount Spokane. I vividly remember my first experience as a 5 year old with my dad as I "graduated" from the rope tow to the chairlift some 45 years ago. I now have a family and my boys have been lucky enough to have a similar experience at Mt Spokane.</p> <p>I have seen the mountain grow and change over the years and am now a current member of the board of directors. I am emphatically in favor of opening up the backside as it will give our loyal skiing community additional terrain to enjoy.</p> <p>Now that our winters seem to be warmer than years in the past we often find ourselves struggling with snow coverage. This would provide access to a better area in terms of consistency of snow coverage. The mountain would be able to open earlier than would otherwise because the backside retains snow better than the existing areas.</p>	Ok

In summary, opening the backside would be a huge improvement to the quality of skiing for this historically significant mountain that so well serves the Spokane and surrounding communities!!	
I wanted to extend my support to the new improvements that are proposed for Mount Spokane State Park. I am most interested in the expansion of the Mt. Spokane ski area and the proposal to add 800 acres to the size of the ski area. I believe this will help the ski area remain competitive, while leaving much of the lower mountain minimally affected. This ski area is a gem for the citizens of Spokane county, and the management works hard to provide a quality, affordable product. Please allow them to increase the size of the winter ski area, and thus, to help retain skiers in this competitive recreational environment. I am also excited to see the increases in trails for mountain bikes. I think mountain biking on Mt. Spokane is currently a lightly used recreation that has the potential to draw more Spring, Summer, and Fall visitors, so I am in support of those improvements.	Ok
As a resident of Spokane I have had the opportunity to enjoy Mt. Spokane in most ways possible. skiing/snowmobiling/mt.biking/hiking/snowshoeing/driving and I must say that "if managed properly", there is ample opportunity for continued recreation and environmental protection and enhancement of all aspects of Mt Spokane. I would support any expansion of the Mt Spokane Ski Area and the Nordic Center Trails.	ok
I support the expansion of the ski area. I've often wondered why it has not been expanded. Population has grown dramatically since I moved here in 1977 and I'm of the opinion that the expansion of the ski area would be a boon to Mt. Spokane and the surrounding communities. The young folks would benefit significantly with more opportunities to enjoy the out doors during the winter. All round, I think it would be great. I HOPE IT HAPPENS.	ok
I am a frequent user of the Mt Spokane ski area, and I support the expansion plan to include use of the "backside" of the mountain. It is already being used by skiers, and it will reduce the chance of someone getting hurt or lost if there is a lift in that area.	ok
I and my family want to let you know that we give our full support for the expansion plans set forth by Mt Spokane 2000. The expansion would ease the crowding which we are experiencing more and more as the popularity of the ski area increases. We feel the impact would be minimal compared to the benefits the increased size would gain for the users.	ok
As a long time user of Mt. Spokane State Park, both downhill and x-country skiing and hiking, I would like to support the expansion of the ski area to the N/NW side of the mountain. This would really benefit the ski area.	ok
I am an avid ski nut and Mt Spokane is my "home" mountain. I am interested in participating in the process, but cannot attend tonight's meeting. Can you add me to the follow-up list and I will effort to attend future sessions. After traveling up the hill for 2 decades, I enjoy the road improvements, but I am concerned about the impact the additions will have on both lodge capacity and the traffic/ parking. Currently on a	Ok. And, everyone who emailed us will receive a notice of future meetings as well as a notice of when information will be on our web site.

high traffic day, parking is sub-standard at best.	
<p>(From Inland Empire Paper staff person)</p> <p>With regard to the winter snowmobile trail system on IEP lands -</p> <p>IEP intends to continue to work with Mt. Spokane State Park in providing snowmobile trails on their private timberlands as long as there is no off-trail riding and damage to the small trees is kept to a minimum. We expect to see snowmobiler education and appropriate signs along the trails, which is the responsibility of the Park. IEP will use its security people to educate snowmobilers and enforce the rules during the winter season. Further detail is included in an annual contract with the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission and a five-year contract with Spokane County for trail grooming.</p> <p>We are not in favor of any additional access routes over those that already exist. The old loop road across Brickel Creek below the Snowblaze Condominiums will be permanently closed due to the new erosion and fish passage regulations. We are not interested in discussing any bridging of these old crossings for both environmental and liability reasons.</p> <p>We hope that these agreements and the success of the snowmobile and cross-country programs will show the public that timber management and public recreation can coexist.</p>	We will coordinate with IEP during this planning process in addition to our on-going operation coordination.
<p>As a parent and grandparent I have raised my boys and now their kids skiing at Mt. Spokane. Nothing compares to the fun, enjoyment, fresh air and exercise in the winter months like great skiing. Giving your children this hobby allows them to enjoy it well into their old age as I do now.</p> <p>I am 100% behind the new design.</p>	ok
<p>I am writing this to encourage you and your committee to allow the Mt. Spokane Ski area to progress with their expansion plan. My family and I have enjoyed this area for over 40 years and it has been a great place to watch our children grow and improve. I have been involved with the Ski Patrol for many years and started the Prime Timer group that meet every Wednesday on Mt. Spokane during the ski season. We have over 400 active members - ages 55 and older that still enjoy skiing. What a great place to keep our senior group active and out of doors in the winter. Many of our members have given countless volunteer hours for this area.</p> <p>If Mt. Spokane does not expand and improve we will loose skiers to the surrounding resorts, who are also in the process of expanding and improving their facilities. The short distance to Mt. Spokane makes it a prime area for our local residents. I hope you and your committee understand the need for improvements.</p>	ok
<p>As a user of the State park at Mt Spokane and skier, I would like to express my support for the proposed expansion of the Mt Spokane ski area. It is seldom found that a ski area is located so close to a major population base to enjoy the facility. This opportunity should be allowed to grow and provide more people access to this resource.</p>	ok
Open up the backside – take care of our park!	Ok
I wish to convey my comments for the upcoming Public Hearing	ok

<p>regarding the potential expansion of ski area facilities at Mt. Spokane Ski and Snowboard Park, since I cannot make the meeting located at Mt. Spokane High School on October 4th at 6:30 pm.</p> <p>I whole-heartily say <u>Yes!</u> for expansion of the Park. I have just last year started skiing with my 11 year old son during the weekdays and nights last year. His Ski instructor said he was a "Natural Born Skier" and he and I both have found it an enjoyable time to bond and be outdoors getting exercise instead of video games and television. We both have Season Passes for this year and would be excited for some new intermediate ski runs and expanded additional mountain capacity.</p> <p>Please express out regret for not being able to attend, and also our excitement for this new opportunity for all skiers in the Pacific Northwest.</p>	
<p>The proposed Potential Alpine Ski Expansion Area (PASEA) to the Mt. Spokane ski area appears to be a great boost for Mt. Spokane State Park and Mt. Spokane ski area.</p> <p>Count my vote in favor of this expansion.</p>	ok
<p>I am very much in favor of expanding the Mt Spokane Ski area to the back of the mountain.</p> <p>It would bring additional money into the park system (as well as the ski hill, of course) and certainly sounds like it would not detract from the beauty of the mountain wilderness. It should actually enhance it by the maintenance of the forest lands around the ski hills (tree thinning etc), cutting down on chances of forest fires.</p> <p>Having a larger ski area could also have the potential of bringing more skiers into Spokane which is more tourist money for the area.</p>	ok
<p>I was out of town the last few weeks. If it is not too late, I would like to add my support to the plans for increasing the lifts and ski area at Mt. Spokane. Skiing is a wonderful family sport and a definite way to combat the trend of obesity in the American public.</p>	ok
<p>I have been Skiing at Mt Spokane for the last 8 years. I think it would be a wonderful addition to the ski hill and would make the mountain a more attractive ski hill to more people. With the improvements of 49, Switzer, and Silver Mountain, Mt. Spokane has lost a lot of business to those areas. It would be nice to see the new lifts and maybe a new Lodge that can service the additional Business the lifts would generate. The management of the Ski area in the past 4 years has improved the food, the service, and the slopes, but the lodge needs help. If they do not increase the lifts to attract new skiers or retain the skiers they may loose business to the resorts that are increasingly improving the facilities. I want to see Mt Spokane succeed into the future and in order to do that I think they have to expand and I am 100% in favor of extending the Lifts and hopefully improving the facilities in the future. It would be a shame to lose our Mt Spokane skiers to the ski areas in the State of Idaho.</p>	Ok
<p>I am fully in favor of expansion the ski area on Mt. Spokane. It is the right thing to do. There is a history of a ski area on other areas of the mountain, and this is simply reclaiming some of these areas as well as expansion.</p> <p>Wonderful ideal</p>	ok
<p>We attended the meeting about plans for Mt. Spokane State Park. After reviewing the Friends of Mt. Spokane web site we have a few</p>	Ok

<p>comments. If you build a single track BC ski/snowshoe trail from the Selkirk lodge to Quartz loop, we are concerned about snowshoes using the groomed XC trails. Building a new Sno Park lot and connecting to Valley View is a good idea. Grooming a trail from the drain field area to and along Linders Ridge road is a concern because dual use or close trails have not worked very well in the past here. The best idea is to build a new flat trail between junctions 1 and 2. Continuing West Quartz to Quartz loop would be great. With "X" amount of grooming time, how could more be groomed during the day? Thank you for your time.</p>	<p>Not sure where "Valley View" is, but we are looking into the idea of a new Sno Park lot.</p> <p>To accomplish more grooming, we would either need to develop more efficient methods, add staff and machines, or both.</p>
<p>I attended the meeting last night at Mt. Spokane High School. I have additional comments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mt. Bikers do not want to be excluded to just an area where they have to pay to ride. That would be discriminatory for Mt. Bikers to have to pay and the horse riders or hikers do not. 2. Horses leave poop all over the place, on the trails, in the parking lot -- wherever -- making it a mess for everyone else. 3. I mt. bike with one of the larger groups of riders at Mt. Spokane and we are very considerate of other hikers and horse riders -- we get off of our bikes and walk through the brush to let them pass. We also try to help work on the trails whenever we have an opportunity to patch up holes or whatever. We also try to jump over the water crossings so as not to contaminate the water. We carry garbage bags with us and pick up other people's litter whenever we can. 4. As a condo owner, I would like our clean water supply to be protected. In the past, the ski area has contaminated our water supply and created a terrible shortage for us. If we have no water, we can't live in our homes. None of us squander our water, we do not wash our cars up there etc. 5. Thank you for moving forward with the expansion of the ski area. We all recreate at Mt. Spokane and try to be good stewards of the natural resources and animals. Sometimes education is very helpful because if we can be more aware of things that are hurtful then we can teach others as well. 6. We locals try to be good "hosts" to the visitors of the park by giving them directions when they are lost in the woods, teaching them not to bring glass into the park, etc. We love our home at Mt. Spokane and appreciate the hardworking rangers who take care of our park and all of the people who make it possible for us to enjoy our "backyard". 	<p>OK to your comments. Also, thank you for your efforts at stewardship and for your courtesies on the trails.</p> <p>Re. your water supply, could you please contact us about your statement of water quality degradation.</p>
<p>I snowshoe in Mt Spokane State Park every week during the season. I do not mind the expansion of the ski area as long as use is not changed from current policy for use of the whole mountain to snowshoe (and hike in summer) I usually snowshoe when the mountain is quieter after 4pm when the downhill area is closing, or on Mondays when it is closed. I stay away from the groomed areas. I find I have to</p>	<p>No change from allowance to hike and snowshoe in the park has been suggested. The Ragged Ridge Natural Area Preserve does limit that access currently.</p>

<p>snowshoe on the top portion of the mountain (above 4500 feet) because in recent years the snow has been poor (packed, crunchy, and icy) on the lower part of the mountain. I try to stay away from the snowmobile areas because of the noise and smell of fuel, which ruins the experience of my snowshoe trips. It has been increasingly hard to stay away from the snowmobiles; they are often everywhere.</p> <p>As long as expansion of ski area does not change access to the top to snowshoe, I do not mind expansion of ski area.</p>	
<p>As a lifelong skier of Mt. Spokane and a father of 2 I would think it would be a detriment to not expand the Mount Spokane Ski Area. Not only would it bring more skier visits but it would also bring more awareness to the needs of the Inland Northwest. Expanding the ski area will allow more tourist dollars to be brought in and used to better the surrounding areas including the State Park. If there is anything else I can do besides this short reply please contact myself at your convenience.</p>	ok
<p>I am very much in support of expanding Mt. Spokane Ski and Snowboard park. The park has provided many years of fun and affordable skiing for my family.</p> <p>The park is close and very convenient for Spokane residents. I know that many environmentalists are concerned about impact on animals however during ski season there is too much snow and no food for these animals. Don't let a small vocal minority override this project. Please help improve Mt. Spokane.</p>	ok
<p>I have been skiing at Mt Spokane since back in the late 50's and I still ski there. I started my children skiing and snow boarding there also, and I am sure that my grand kids will also learn to ski at Mt Spokane. I support the expansion of the Northwest part of the mountain. I think that Mt Spokane needs to expand to keep up with the other mountains. If you look at 49 Degrees North, Schweitzer Basin, Look Out Pass and Silver Mountain, they all are expanding to gain more area and to satisfy the needs of the skiing communities. I know that Mt Spokane needs to keep up with the competition to keep their market share and to make the skiing experience better.</p> <p>Please accept the plans for expansion of the Northwest area.</p>	ok
<p>Unfortunately I will be unable to make the public hearing this evening at the high school but I did want to voice my support of the expansion plans.</p> <p>I believe that Mt. Spokane is a wonderful asset to our community and the plans as I understand them, will be a terrific addition. The beauty of this plan is two-fold in that it will, (a) relieve congestion at chair five and chair three, and (b) open terrain that is north facing and thus will allow the mountain to remain open for longer in the dreaded low-snowpack years which we seem to have on a regular basis.</p> <p>I admit that my family and I are avid downhill skiers. Mt. Spokane allows us plenty of healthy, active, family oriented outdoor recreation during our long winter months. While there may be those opposed to this expansion, I think the plan as proposed is a very measured and reasonable approach to keeping our mountain competitive and improving its viability over the long term.</p>	ok
<p>It was a pleasure meeting you last night, and needless to say a most interesting meeting. I had written you an e-mail earlier in the day, but sent it to your general mailbox, so I thought I would take this</p>	<p>Thank you for your kind words and for your specific thoughts about habitat considerations for the large ungulates and</p>

opportunity to forward it to your personal mailbox, as well as to add an additional comment or two.

First and foremost, you are to be commended for the manner in which you conducted the meeting. Despite Mr. Ferguson's inappropriate interruption (was he representing the Dept. of Fish & Wildlife or himself?), I felt you did an excellent job of running the meeting and keeping everyone focused on the task at hand. The format you chose for the meeting was an excellent way to dispense with the potential for vitriolic rhetoric and emotional displays, and as such I believe most in attendance probably left with the feeling that their voice had been heard.

A more specific comment is directed to the many ill-informed comments that were raised regarding the contention that development of the PASEA will adversely impact the habitat of large ungulates and predators such as deer, elk, moose, bear, etc. Many of these comments seemed to suggest that ski resorts operations would threaten these species, when in fact they have little impact at all for one obvious reason - ski resorts are not a hospitable environment for such animals during the winter months (except for hibernating bears!). Conversely, ski resorts don't operate during the summer months when the animals return to summer forage areas at higher elevations.

Elk in particular are migratory animals, often roaming as much as 50 miles in any given day in their opportunistic search for forage, water and shelter. They don't winter at elevations such as those found on Mt. Spokane for obvious reasons - snow covers most of their forage, makes travel more difficult, and in times of extreme cold, water sources are either buried or frozen. That's why it is quite common throughout the winter season to see large herds of 50 or more elk grazing opportunistically on shoots of winter wheat growing on Peone Prairie at the base of the mountain, where the elevation is closer to 2,000 ft. than 5,000 ft. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation offers some excellent overviews of elk habitat, range, management activities, etc.

<http://www.rmef.org/>

Moose tend to live in marshy lowlands where rich, aquatic vegetation thrives. They too seek the lowlands during the winter months in search of open water where such forage is more easily found. Moose are not a herd-oriented species and thus tend to be able to adapt to a wider variety of habitats. I spend my summer months at Spirit Lake, just below the summit of Mt. Spokane, and can attest to the plethora of moose that have come to populate the Brickel Creek drainage in the past few years. The biggest boon to their existence has been the Inland Empire Paper Company restricting access to its 110,000 acres (much of it surrounding Mt. Spokane State Park. Prior to these restrictions, moose populations in and around Mt. Spokane were in trouble due to excessive poaching from subsistence-oriented Idaho residents sneaking over the border at night. When IEP instituted their \$50.00 annual access permit program, with backcountry patrols and guarded entries, the poaching stopped and the populations came back. If anything, the proximity of IEP holdings to the park has done more for wildlife in the park than any one factor alone, as private interests

predators.

<p>have an easier time restricting access than do public institutions.</p> <p>Whitetail deer are less ranging in their habitat than elk or moose, and in some instances are known to spend their entire lives within a one square mile area. Being reasonably intelligent animals, they too migrate to lower elevations as well during winter when snow restricts their access to forage and shelter. Whitetail deer are known as one of the most adaptable species in the United States, with the largest concentrations of trophy-sized animals now documented to be living in or near urban areas where food sources are high and predation is low. Anyone living around the periphery of the Spokane urban area can see that whitetail populations are far from threatened in Spokane County. I live on Browne's Mountain in the southeast part of the Spokane urban area, a forested area that is on the outskirts of a reasonably dense area of suburban subdivisions and neighborhood commercial areas. I would estimate that I see at least thirty separate whitetail deer on any given day, including some of the largest 6 point bucks I've ever seen in the wild.</p> <p>In short, deer, elk and moose are too smart to hang out around ski resorts in the winter - the gettin' is much better at lower elevations!</p> <p>That's it for now Daniel. Again, thank-you for your fine efforts and I will look forward to seeing you again on November 30th.</p>	
<p>The expansion plan for the ski area at Mt. Spokane should go forward. With more people utilizing the recreation area during the entire year, comes better understanding and stewardship of the environment. Mountain biking, hiking, skiing tends to create a better understanding and respect of the environment amongst the population. When we create fences, it seems only the select people who can enter the environment benefit, and they want to save it for themselves. I don't blame them. We need to educate more people about the environmental/recreational treasure we have, so close to 650,000 people. The more people use it, the more get involved to understand the environments systems. That side of the mountain has had developed alpine skiing in the past, so we are not talking about a road less pristine environment. I believe the impact would be minimal, with the attributes far out stripping the dangers in this recreational area. With proper management, Mt. Spokane State Park can educate more people, and have some fun doing it, with expansion.</p>	Ok
<p>I was at the Mt. Spokane meeting on Wednesday and filled out at least eight to ten questions/comment slips of paper. Of course, you suggested that anyone wanting to send in additional comments to send them to your e-mail address. You didn't give a time limit. I intended to send this weeks ago, but lost track of time. I do have some comments in addition to those I wrote out on the small slips of paper. I'll list them below:</p> <p>The first two comments concern the meeting arrangements.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It would have helped to have a microphone for the speakers who didn't have a very strong voice. 2. Since there was previously known to be a lack of environmental input, it would have been appropriate to have someone from other than Mt. Spokane 2000 and the Users (Advisory Committee) give a short talk on the ecosystem and wildlife on Mt. Spokane and, in 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Thanks for your comments on the running of the meeting. The way it turned out – over 30 minutes of presentation by the concessionaire – was not as it was originally intended. So we can understand how the perception of a “one-sided” meeting was taken. We will incorporate your ideas for our next meeting. 2. Regarding your #8, are you willing to serve on the Advisory Committee or know someone who would be? Please contact us. 3. Regarding other comments/suggestions, we will incorporate into our analysis.

particular, the area known as the PASEA. I was glad to see the wildlife biologist given a woefully short opportunity to address the group, although it shouldn't have been an argument.

Other comments:

3. The Mt. Spokane 2000 group made some interesting statements that require more information. For instance, the manager said, "We need to make more money before we can improve the facilities." Then proceeded to say it would take over \$1 million to properly build out the PASEA. That million could go a long way in improving the existing facilities.

Their plan is contrary to good business practice. Good businesses improve their existing facilities first, attracting clientele by excellent service and facilities. Mt. Spokane suffers terribly from a decaying infrastructure; old, slow lifts; small, crowded and filthy lodges; and totally inadequate parking on good weekend or holiday skiing. This poorly maintained infrastructure sends a message that the operator doesn't care about quality or safety and, consequently, sends many skiers to Silverhorn, Schweitzer Mountain and 49 Degrees North, where a quality experience and safe facilities are found in all those areas. Mt. Spokane 2000 isn't losing skiers to a lack of terrain, they're losing skiers to a lack of maintenance and quality experience.

This group of "businessmen and women" who comprise Mt. Spokane 2000 would be well advised to look at how other prosperous businesses in Spokane operate, such as River Park Square and The Spokesman Review. Those two companies, owned and operated by the Cowles, put quality and maintenance first and future expansion second.

On the other side of the coin is Inland Paper Company, also owned by the Cowles. This company leaves a legacy of massive slash piles, severely eroded areas, damaged wetlands, clearcuts, dry creeks and a wasteland that was once pristine habitat. This company's handiwork can be seen in their holdings all around Mt. Spokane. This business agenda reminds me of Mt. Spokane 2000 - rather than improve the existing infrastructure, they want to expand first and create a good business second.

4. Mt. Spokane 2000 complained that they were "turning skiers away" on weekends and holidays. My question is if that's the case, please provide the dates in the last seven years the ski area manager ordered the ticket takers to refuse to sell tickets to skiers wanting to ski. Prove to the Parks Commission and the public that they are speaking the truth. What days did they contact the State Parks staff and tell them not to let anyone else into the ski area? What days did they call the news media and ask them to convey the fact that they weren't selling anymore tickets due to overcrowding of the area? Mt. Spokane 2000 should have those records and proof they refused to sell more tickets or, as I predict, they're embellishing the truth. If they "turned away" skiers because of a lack of parking, that needs to be addressed prior to any thought of expansion anyway. This scenario of turning skiers away, if it happened, can be proven by the rangers.

5. Mt. Spokane 2000 said they looked into past records and predicted a longer season due to the "deeper" accumulation of snow in the PASEA, which would, of course, help their bottom line. They then

went on to say later in their program when speaking about making artificial snow that, "Solar decay would remove the snow faster than we could make it."

Their logic fails to pass the smell test. If they remove the trees and open the north slope for ski runs, the same problem will occur on the north side in the spring. Solar decay of the snow would take its toll on the opened slopes. Yes, the snow accumulation is perhaps better on the north slope and stays there longer right now - mostly because of the forest cover. Remove the cover and the low angled slopes on the north would lose their snow pack at an accelerated rate. This needs to be studied.

I ask the question, "Is it worth opening up the PASEA to accommodate some weekends and certain holidays that are well attended?" The PASEA may provide for all the "needs" Mt. Spokane 2000 requests from the park, but this area presently provides an important watershed for the Little Spokane and Little Spokane aquifer, not to mention vital habitat for wildlife and vegetation. Opening up the PASEA and removing the forest cover increases snowmelt sooner in the spring and summer, reducing groundwater and summer/fall runoff. Any logged area (and there are many Inland Paper cuts to study close by) will show that removal of timber and vegetation will eliminate some water resources and reduce others. It will change the alpine and sub-alpine ecosystems presently in place. Remember, the ski area is at the top of the "water resource chain". Anything that happens there affects everything below, including what's left of the PASEA after Mt. Spokane 2000 takes its upper "half of the pie".

6. Ms. Cowles provided statements about knowing what her family's "gift" was for. A gift does not have strings attached. It was given to the state for "recreation" purposes, but that does not translate into a high altitude Silverwood. Mt. Spokane State Park has a mission statement. Recreation is part of the purpose, but so is maintaining a functional alpine and sub-alpine ecosystem. Logging is going on all around Mt. Spokane, much of it by Inland Paper Company, owned and operated by the Cowles family. There are numerous areas to see the effects of clear-cutting near Mt. Spokane. The streams stop flowing, wetlands are destroyed, weeds invade the skid trails and torn-up land, and the destruction of one habitat for certain species of wildlife and vegetation opens the door to different habitat and different flora and fauna, one that is very common in the foothills and valleys near Mt. Spokane. It's the upper regions of the mountain that hold a distinct variety only found in alpine areas. If we continue to remove high altitude vegetation, then we also remove the flora and fauna that exist there and only there.

7. Mt. Spokane 2000 complained that their basic problem was the inability to attract more skiers and the only solution to the problem was expansion into the PASEA. I didn't hear any mention of opening up the mountain on Monday's. Mt. Spokane needs to show why this isn't a partial solution. Many areas stay open seven days a week.

Another possible revenue maker is adding night skiing to other runs. Nothing was said about that alternative either. The problem, of course, is typical Mt. Spokane cloud cap, which would be found on the north side as well, and the lodges are so rundown and uninviting that no one wants to spend time on the mountain when the skiing or

<p>weather is poor. Improve the facilities and more skiers would be willing to come up at night.</p> <p>8. The Advisory Committee was missing two main ingredients - a wildlife biologist and an environmentalist. Mountain bikers, runners, hikers, campers, snowmobile users, backcountry horse people, snowboarders and skiers - the basic groups on the Advisory Committee, are recreational users. Their main purpose on a committee is to request more trails, more area, and more facilities from the park. Who requests the need for areas of dense vegetation for certain birds, or untouched alpine creeks, or high-altitude wetlands for moose or huckleberry thickets for bears? The state has to give the creatures who live there now first rights, even though they can't speak for themselves. Mt. Spokane didn't belong to the Cowles family when the Indians were the only inhabitants of the area. They just "acquired it" from the government or others who took it from the Native Americans. The park is a "state" park, not just a local park for local purposes. It belongs to the citizens of the State of Washington and its future needs to take that into consideration.</p>	
<p>I believe that the proposals submitted by Mt Spokane to expand and modernize the ski area and related recreation expansion should be given careful and serious consideration.</p> <p>I have been heading the Spokane Area Economic Development Council for the past three years, and we have found that the “affordable lifestyle” of the Spokane Region is a big draw in attracting new business and investors to the region, and in keeping existing ones here, and growing.</p> <p>Spokane is recognized as a very family friendly city, with many of the amenities of a much larger metropolitan area—but with the unique attributes of significant outdoor recreation and lifestyle amenities very close to the core of the community.</p> <p>Mt Spokane has long been a key asset for our community, one that can be easily accessed by families --during the week, after school or for short weekends’ of downhill and cross country skiing. The expansion to the northwest, and the modernizing of the uphill capacity on the front side will only make the ski area and the park a more valuable asset for the entire region. At the EDC, we are working with other organizations in the community to bring real life to the community’s “Near Nature, Near Perfect” tag line; continuing to offer exceptional recreation opportunities only a short drive from downtown continues to enhance our ability to attract and retain younger families, professionals and businesses, and the kind of economic growth that our region, and the entire state, aspire to attract.</p> <p>I encourage those that review the expansion proposal to move to the next step of detailed planning in Phase 2. The Spokane region, and our entire state, are unique because of the positive way we have managed resources to meet the needs of current users, and the concepts proposed for Mt Spokane are a very positive way to continue to manage that particular resource for future generations of families as well.</p>	<p>Ok</p>
<p>I write to add my voice in enthusiastic support of the proposed</p>	<p>ok</p>

<p>expansion plans at Mt. Spokane prior to tomorrow's public meeting. As you can see, I'm stuck down here in hot and humid Texas and won't be able to attend the meeting in Spokane. But my heart will be there.</p> <p>I grew up in Spokane and started skiing at Mt. Spokane when I was five. I've spent almost every winter there since.</p> <p>It's where I first learned to parallel ski in the mountain's Mogul Munchers ski school program. It's where my family spent most our Saturdays. It's where I remember skiing with my dad, who died when I was 15. It's where I spent my weekends as a high school student (and stayed out of too much trouble). It's where I first saw a snowboard and where I first tried one out. Needless to say, it's where some of my best memories were made.</p> <p>And it can be made even better. Already, the mountain's management has done a fantastic job of promoting and improving this great asset. And I can't imagine a better use of state parks' resources than to expand and improve this treasure of the Inland Northwest.</p> <p>I'm particularly excited about the plans to extend chair 2 down to Lodge 2 (that bunny hill lift 5 was a bit slow) and to greatly enhance the backside of the mountain, where its best-kept secrets are found. I believe a relatively small amount invested doing so, will yield exponential returns — both financially and, even more important, in opening up more of the mountain to a new generation of inland northwesterners to make their own memories.</p> <p>Please count me as a fervent supporter of the proposed expansion plans at the mountain and count on me to help in any way I can. See you at the top of Chair 1 in a couple months.</p>	
<p>This letter is to express and emphasize my personal concerns and opinions about the proposed Mt. Spokane State Park Facilities Plan. I have been closely involved in the park management planning process since September, 1993, having served on all of the related committees, and am familiar with the issues being addressed in the Plan.</p> <p>I strongly support the timely approval by the Commission of that portion of the Trail Plan presented by the Mt. Spokane State Park Advisory Committee that addresses the summer trails. I have a concern that consideration of the Alpine Ski Area expansion will either slow the process or discourage State Parks from classifying the PASEA as Resource Recreation. Classifying the area as Resource Recreation does not automatically qualify it as suitable for alpine skiing as this is a conditional use. The PASEA should be classified as Resource Recreation in support of multi-use trails, regardless of the outcome of any analysis for alpine skiing.</p> <p>Obviously environmental concerns need to be addressed in determining the future activities in Mt. Spokane State Park. It is also obvious that multi-use, single track trails have less environmental impact than an alpine ski area. Therefore, we need to insure that in performing the environmental studies we do not unduly restrict classification of the PASEA because of the potential effect of alpine</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regarding the timing of review by the Commission, we believe we can move forward with the highest priority trail improvements irrespective of the Commission's decision to investigate the PASEA. 2. Regarding your other thoughts, "ok" for inclusion in our analysis.

skiing. Room must be provided for classifying the PASEA as Resource Recreation without alpine skiing.

The following trail features need to be included in the park development and enhancements:

Creation of a single track, multi-use, loop trail around Mt. Spokane at about the 5000 foot elevation by connecting Trail 130 on both ends.

Creation of a single track, multi-use trail connecting Trail 130, the loop trail at 5000 foot elevation and the mountain summit in the northwest quadrant of the mountain (in section 16).

Suitable access to equestrian water at stream crossings.

Trail signage.

Overnight equestrian camping facilities.

Providing for equestrian use of any parking facilities developed for other uses.

Why equestrian activities should receive support in the Mt. Spokane Facilities Plan:

The Park Commission's Non-Motorized Trail Goals and Policies provides for the designation of suitable parks as "destination or preferred use sites" for specific varieties of trail users.

Mt. Spokane State Park, as the largest park in the system at approximately 14,000 acres is primarily undeveloped, treed, mountainous land and is suited to providing the desired equestrian experiences.

Because of the park size and rural atmosphere some areas of the park are a greater distance from the gates and parking areas. This makes them less accessible to the day hikers and more suitable to the equestrian that tends to travel longer distances.

Only a few parks within the State Parks system permit horses. Mt. Spokane State Park, with the above features, helps State Parks meet the **stated** goals of (1) providing diverse recreational opportunities, (2) providing rustic recreational opportunities and (3) identifying new and expanded equestrian trails.

There is a need for equestrian trails that provide a beginner and intermediate trail riding experience. This is best described and accomplished with the length of the trail over a relatively level terrain. A loop trail around Mt. Spokane at the relatively level 5000 foot elevation provides this experience.

Equestrian trail activities take place on soft trails through primarily rural areas. Private property of this type is quickly being developed and not available to trail riding. This is forcing equestrian trail riding to be performed in developed and congested areas. Safety of trail riders is becoming an issue. As the general population increases so does the interest in equestrian activities. There is a need not only for current trail capacity but also the ability and capacity to develop new trails for future use. Therefore, there is an increased need for public land managers to support development and maintenance of equestrian trails where trail riding can be done in relatively safety compared to more developed areas. Expansion of multi-use, single track trails in the PASEA provide for this need.

Equestrian trail activities include the desire for quiet, solitude and tranquility while enjoying nature. The proposed loop trail at 5000

<p>foot elevation provides this experience on the far side of the mountain.</p> <p>Recognizing the importance of sensitive areas we need to develop facilities to adequately control and direct people that will seek access to sensitive areas. Multi-use trails can be designed and used to move people through these sensitive areas. This is another advantage of developing a loop trail around the mountain.</p> <p>Equestrians will naturally seek out water for horses on long rides. This is typically found where trails cross the streams. Equestrian watering facilities at stream crossings will help preserve the environment by keeping the horses out of the streams and increase safety by discouraging equestrians from taking unnecessary, and risky, chances to get to water.</p> <p>Single track trails, properly developed and maintained, built around the 5000 foot elevation, will have minimal impact on the wildlife, flora and fauna while providing all of the above benefits.</p> <p>For the above reasons, I believe that the State Parks Commission should take prompt action to approve the summer trail portion of the Trail Plan presented by the Mt. Spokane Advisory Committee.</p>	
<p>I am writing to encourage the approval of the proposed expansion of MT. Spokane. We are blessed with having such a wonderful winter play area in such close proximity to our major metropolitan area. The expansion will provide opportunity for more people to enjoy the wonders of winter outdoor fun. I am hopeful that we can once again see school ski programs with bus loads of enthusiastic kids that will develop a love of mountain sports that will last a lifetime.</p> <p>I believe with the expansion there will be more people that will visit our area and enjoy skiing MT. Spokane rather than drive the added 2 hours to Schweitzer. There has to be a major economic benefit for our community. Other than Boise, Id. I know of no other metropolitan area that has such a wonderful mountain so close. Snoqualmie Pass cannot at all measure up to the terrain and opportunities of that offered by Mt. Spokane.</p> <p>For these reasons I encourage you to work in finding a way to work together and approve this expansion.</p>	ok
<p>My input as an avid user of Mt. Spokane's miles of recreational bliss:</p> <p>First please retain the wildness and make sure there is no "industry standard" condo village, mass lighting, overuse of water resources etc. Please make sure there is no light and noise pollution for all involved. I think road improvements and some accommodation is reasonable but with real restrictions for wildlife preservation.</p>	ok
<p>You may not remember me from 10 years ago when you first became involved with Mt. Spokane State Park, but I was the alpine skier representative on the team that prepared the master plan for the concessionaire bid package. You came into the project at the public input part and I enjoyed watching you take chaos to productive input. You did it again this week regarding the ski area expansion meeting in Spokane.</p> <p>I wrote to Brad McQuarrie when I learned that you would be involved in this project saying how pleased I am that you will participate. I knew that John Roskelly would be a thorn again and sure enough, he</p>	<p>Thanks for your kind words. (and... Kathy is now the head of a park agency in Pierce County.)</p> <p>Ok on the rest of your comments.</p>

<p>is. He is the guy who wrote the yellow sticky note saying something to the effect that, Isn't it about time to eliminate alpine skiing from Mt. Spokane? When the audience gasped, he left the room. I hope you don't put much weight on his opinion just because he was an elected county commissioner and acclaimed mountaineer. In the project we did 13 years ago, he claimed to represent the hiker constituency. At one of the meetings where he demanded that all of the lifts be removed from the mountain with all the roads and lodges, I asked the audience how many hikers there were in the room. About 15 hands went up. I then asked how many of them shared John's view as their representative. No hand went up. Please know that he likely represents only John Roskelly and not a group of his peers.</p> <p>I know that the environmentalist caught you off guard, but you handled it very well and he did not get out of control, credit to him and to you.</p> <p>Thank you for the work you do on behalf of the people who use Mt. Spokane State Park. We trust you and admire the way you do your work. If Kathy Smith is still involved, please say hello from me.</p>	
<p>I would like to express my support for the proposed expansion of the ski area facilities at Mt. Spokane Ski and Snowboard Park. Having grown up in this area, and having grown up in a family that was, in large part, supported by the timber industry, I have a very personal and deep respect for the beautiful land that surrounds us here in the Spokane area. I believe that recreational facilities such as these can exist without creating a negative impact upon the environment in which we live. In fact, it is my observation, that the land currently occupied by the Mt. Spokane Ski and Snowboard Park is some of the best managed, most fire/insect resistant, nicest looking, and most enjoyable (all year round), of all the surrounding area. I believe that the proposal to expand the facility should be allowed to proceed. There are few opportunities in life for “win-win” situations such as these. I believe that when this expansion is complete, even the nay-sayers will be pleased with the manner in which the expanded facilities are run. I believe that providing access to parts of Mt. Spokane that have heretofore been largely inaccessible, will only increase people’s awareness of the beauty that surrounds us and the need to treat it well. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter</p>	ok
<p>My husband Brad Pendleton has skied Mt Spokane for at least 45 years as well as having served on the ski patrol for more than 20 of those years and we both are in favor of the realignment of chair #2 and opening up more terrain on the backside. Mt Spokane is a great mountain and being so close to Spokane is well used. Having more terrain would make the beginner hill a safer place for teaching and children learning & practicing their technics. We are in favor of the proposal.</p>	ok
<p>I am a retired Air Force pilot who later was a natural resource instructor at Spokane Community College over a period of fourteen years. I was appointed Chair of the Spokane Urban Forestry Committee by Mayor Jim Chase. I served for many years on the MSSP Advisory Committee representing natural resources based recreation. I worked with Dan Farber and Rob Fimble on various projects in the Park. Over the years, more and more land in the Park was being used by off-road vehicles such as snowmobiles,</p>	<p>We will ask you to provide all the information you have gathered to this point. We also thank you for your volunteer contribution in the past and hope that you will continue to work with us as we work through this planning process. You obviously aren't happy with some of our actions in the past, but we are</p>

<p>ORVs/ATVs etc. at the expense of wildlife. The constant day and night noise and light pollution was forcing predator and prey to other locations. This also caused severe other natural resource degradation. Erosion channels caused by inappropriate activity of mountain bikers and motorized vehicles have appeared. I have had a wildlife camera located at various locations in the Park and have seen a dramatic reduction of wildlife activity such as the snowshoe hare which are an absolute necessity for certain predators such as the endangered Canada lynx. I have documented evidence of numerous lynx sightings in and adjacent to MSSP. I and two Park employees saw one lynx on the Mt Kit Carson road. I hosted the last Canada lynx interagency lynx committee at the Mt. Spokane ski lodge. The lodge operator allowed us to use the facility at no cost. I went to the Advisory Committee to seek a donation for offsetting the cost of lunch for the lynx committee. The Advisory Committee declined to participate so I provided the necessary funding. Every time a vote would come up in the committee relative to natural resource preservation, it was voted down. I could not be effective on the committee so I finally resigned. I expect the vote on this next project will favor development over natural resource preservation. In that case, you should rename this beautiful green jewel, Mt. Spokane Outdoor Recreational Park. I have nothing but disgust and revulsion for the direction the Park is going.</p>	<p>genuinely attempting to look at the issues here thoughtfully and fairly.</p>
<p>I can not attend tonight's meeting. However, I would like to comment that I think extending chair 2 from Lodge 2 to the backside is a terrific idea. I am an intermediate skier and would like to have more choices. My husband and I have a condo at Snowblaze and have been a season pass holders for many years. We love Mt. Spokane Ski area and would like to see it get even better.</p>	<p>ok</p>
<p>Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the proposed expansion plan on Mt Spokane. Our only regret is that we were out of the country when the email was sent and fear we are too late to express our heartfelt concerns regarding this proposal.</p> <p>I have been skiing Mount Spokane for 45 years. My love for this mountain is unparalleled. My family and I ski every week from opening to closing day. We have witnessed many changes over the years, some good, some bad. This proposed expansion or talk of it, has reared it's ugly head over the years on more than one occasion and praise the Lord has never come to pass.</p> <p>These are our reasons for knowing this expansion is completely unnecessary:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Our uphill capacity with our "ancient" double chair lifts work well. You rarely experience overcrowded slopes that can often result, due to highspeed quads. All you have to do is ski Schweitzer and you'll understand. We understand the proposal doesn't include replacing the existing chairlift with a highspeed lift but the point is, there is more than enough terrain to support the number of skiers without expanding to the backside. 2. Our lodges are an embarrassment. On any given weekend lodge 2 is bursting at the seams and due to the lack of space you have families and their children in the Bar. This is not an appropriate place for kids. The improvement/replacement of these facilities is where any 	<p>ok</p>

<p>thoughts of expansion should be.</p> <p>Please, let's focus on improving the facilities so that "everyone" can enjoy their time on our beautiful mountain.</p> <p>Thanks for your consideration.</p>	
<p>I would like to say that I would like to see the mt. spokane expansion go through. My wife and I really love to go up there skiing and my kids to it really helps keep them out of trouble. I looked at the proposed plan It makes good use of the existing lifts. I hope I picked the right place to send this.</p>	ok
<p>I'm excited to think that Mt. Spokane has a good plan going for this mountain that so many of us love. It is way overdue. Please add my name to the list of those who support the expansion.</p>	ok
<p>I am writing this letter of endorsement and am sorry I can not attend the meeting.</p> <p>The Burandt family has three generations currently skiing on Mt. Spokane.</p> <p>My father Hans, was the director of the Ski School on MT. Spokane through out the 1960's. He then went on to coach for Spokane Ski Racing Association for over twenty years. Hans and his wife Kathy are season pass holders and ski over three days a week on MT. Spokane. I grew up skiing on MT. Spokane at the age of 2. I have been skiing close to 3 days a week for over 40 years. I raced for SSRA from the ages of 6-19 years old. I then became active as a coach for SSRA, and have been coaching for 24 years. My 3 kids and my wife all began skiing on MT. Spokane. . My 3 kids have never missed a weekend and are very active with ski racing. Besides the skiing, the Burandt family has donated countless hours of labor. Years and years of brush cutting. building timing huts, start huts, painted the old lodge #1 ski patrol building. We have helped lay out probably miles and miles of timing and communication wire, along with all the splices and repairs that go into maintaining it. My father and I have done much of the electrical for all of the SSRA buildings.</p> <p>Yes MT. Spokane has been a big part of the Burandt family. It has become a home away from home for our family. I hope that MT. Spokane can continue to be a home away from home for many more generations.</p> <p>The Burandt family is pleased to endorse the MT. Spokane State Park planned upgrades.</p>	<p>Thanks for all your volunteer assistance.</p> <p>“Ok” with comments.</p>
<p>I'm writing a brief note to express concern about possible expansion of the Mt. Spokane ski area.</p> <p>Typically I would be in favor of expansion, but I have concerns about staff not being able to maintain the runs they currently have. Mt. Spokane usually posts which runs have been groomed on a daily basis, but many of us have found that runs which have been identified as supposedly having been groomed had probably not been touched for at least 24-48 hours prior to that designation.</p> <p>If Mt. Spokane is having difficulty keeping up with its existing runs, I hate to think of what would happen to the quality of skiing there if more runs were added.</p>	ok
<p>Due to prior commitments, I was unable to attend the Public hearing on Oct. 4th regarding the potential Mount Spokane Expansion.</p>	ok

<p>I think this would be an <u>excellent</u> Improvement for the ski area and the Spokane community. I have been suggesting for many years that a chair lift be placed on the back of the mountain. My understanding is that chair 2 would be replaced as well (hopefully with a high speed chair).</p> <p>These are terrific proposals!!</p>	
<p>Regarding the potential expansion of ski area facilities at Mt. Spokane Ski and Snowboard Park, I would like to 'voice' my opinion by stating that I think it is a great idea.</p>	ok
<p>As one who has skied for more than 30 years, I would like to encourage the development and expansion of the Mt. Spokane ski area. The population would support it. It will be good for the economy and the general attractiveness of sports-minded people considering a move to the Inland Northwest.</p>	Ok
<p>I have actively skied at Mt Spokane for over 34 years (33 of those years I had a seasons pass). I have considered Mt Spokane my "Home" mountain for those years and have also been able to ski many of the areas through out the west. It is a great local ski hill as well as local resource.</p> <p>I have skied the proposed expansion area through out these years and am quite pleased with what it has to offer. I can see positives and negatives for opening up this area and servicing it for the broader majority. While I have enjoyed skiing (telemark) this relatively untouched area for these years, which from a personal perspective, would be nice to keep. But I can see the advantage of allowing Mt Spokane to expand into this area allowing more accessibility and a safer environment for those who access that area. Also with the expansion at virtually all the other local facilities it should allow Mt Spokane to continue to be able to compete and survive in the local market. This expansion would also provide an area that would be available to skiers in adverse conditions since this area is not as exposed or does it experience the adverse conditions that we experience in our area (primarily fog).</p> <p>I appreciate the opportunity to supply my comments and would appreciate some additional information on the potential time frame and/or outcome of the decision.</p>	<p>Ok to comments. Regarding the timing for the decision, we expect to go to our Commission on January 11, 2007 to decide whether to pursue detailed study of the alpine expansion or whether to not go there, but rather stay within the existing operation area. Depending on that outcome of that decision, a master facilities plan would be approved either by the Spring of 2007 or the Winter of 2008.</p>
<p>Expansion planned by Mt. Spokane benefits outdoor recreationalists. This was the purpose of the dedication of the original park land and the result of the subsequent acquisitions and donations thereafter. Mt. Spokane provides year around recreation and enjoyment for the public. It was never the intent of this park to be an animal preserve - not that coexistence would not be welcome. This park was a gift so that people could flock to the mountain and enjoy skiing. Mt. Spokane's proposal would enhance that enjoyment. I would hope the board would continue to support the outdoor recreation value of this park.</p>	ok
<p>I am so excited about the recent news concerning an expansion plan for Mt. Spokane. I have been out of town since Oct. 3rd so feel bad about having to miss the meeting.</p> <p>Mount Spokane badly needs something new and exciting to happen, not only for its customers but also the crew up there. We read the</p>	ok

<p>newspaper reports about all the changes happening at the other are ski resorts in our area, but nothing about Mt. Spokane. I have always understood that it has been a financial issue. I also have felt bad for all the great dedicated management and employees who have always tried real hard to provide a great skiing experience at this old and tired facility.</p>	
<p>I was at the meeting 10/4. In general, I think the planning process is going very well. I'd like to add these comments.</p> <p>The use of the term "extreme" for lift served downhill mountain biking is inappropriate to say the least. It's inaccurate, in the same sense that calling black diamond skiers "extreme" would be inaccurate. In addition, the term "extreme" has many negative connotations of reckless, inconsiderate trail users - just the image that those of us who work in trail advocacy for mountain biking work very hard to counteract. I'm not so sure that in that light, the Park would want to promote "extreme" mountain biking. Using terminology like "lift-served" or "gravity assisted" would be more accurate, and more palatable to both mountain bikers and non-mountain bikers alike. This is the kind of verbiage you will find at other ski areas that offer lift served trail riding. In addition, the "extreme" end of mountain biking, which does exist, encompasses activities like jumping the bike over 20 foot gaps jumps and down cliffs, something that only a small portion of the mountain biking population engages in. Is this the target demographic? You will find there are many mountain bikers who want the lift assist without the "extreme" label. Brundage Mountain in McCall, Idaho is an example of an area that caters to green circle riders as well as experts.</p> <p>A smaller side note is that I think a lot of the attendees of the meeting were confused over the general trail plan, versus the PASEA proposal. Having been at the trails plan session that Steve Christensen presented at REI, I had a good sense of the separation between the ski area plan and the Park plan, but I do not think that came across at the meeting 10/4.</p>	<p>1. We'll look into the appropriate term in the industry. "Lift-served" sounds pretty good.</p> <p>2. Previously there were separate planning processes going on between trail uses and alpine skiing. In this process, we are combining them, pushing to create an integrated park master facilities plan that takes both into account.</p>
<p>Hi, Sorry I couldn't make the meeting on October 4th! I am one of the Prime Timers at Mt. Spokane; was a ski instructor at Mt. Spokane and have 9 members in my family that ski. I am all for the expansion of Mt. Spokane. We need to keep up with the other ski areas that are expanding. Good luck!</p>	ok
<p>I am in total agreement to expand the ski area. The N & NW side of the mountain get some of the best snow and it is a shame not to be able to access it.</p> <p>Expanding the area will help spread out the crowds and provide more enjoyment for all ski level participants.</p> <p>Please consider my opinion in favor of the expansion submitted.</p>	ok
<p>I am strongly in favor of the PASEA. Thank you.</p>	ok
<p>I have been a season pass holder at Mt Spokane for a long time and I plan on continuing to ski at Mt Spokane in the future. However, I feel the proposed ski area expansion to the back side is a bad idea!! There are plenty of ski trails and terrain for a good day on the mountain at a local area. I should know, I've been skiing at Mt Spokane for 50+ years. This is a remote area of the mountain. It should be left in its natural state for those who want a quite remote experience on the mountain.</p>	ok
<p>I believe that a compromise is in order regarding the use of the North</p>	ok

side of Mt. Spokane. I believe that the ski development should be kept south of the road below the #4 lift and east of the lift area. That would leave the bottom creek, and the hills to the north of the creek as well as the property west of the lift for wildlife. Please consider this option.	
I would just like to voice my support for the proposed expansion of the Mt. Spokane ski area facilities. It would be great to be able to take advantage of all that the Mt. Spokane has to offer. My family and I are big fans.	ok
<p>The Pacific Northwest Ski Areas Association (PNSAA) is a non-profit trade association, which represents the interests of ski and snowboard facilities in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Alaska. PNSAA member ski areas, most of which are situated on state and federal land, collectively host an estimated 4.5 million skier/snowboarder visits annually.</p> <p>On behalf of the PNSAA Board of Directors, I write to provide data in support of the purposes and need for facility expansion at Mt. Spokane Ski & Snowboard Park (hereafter abbreviated Mt. Spokane). After careful review of Mt. Spokane's operations, the Association believes expansion will enhance the overall functionality of the Mt. Spokane facility. Further, expansion to north-facing slopes will ready Mt. Spokane for guest preferences and capacity requirements that are forecasted by snow sport industry experts.</p> <p>Marketplace Growth</p> <p>Washington's population is growing and so are visits to ski areas. According to U.S. Census Bureau statistics, Washington will be the nation's 9th fastest-growing state in the next 25 years as the state's population increases sharply by an astounding 46 percent. (By year 2030, Washington is expected to have a population of 8.6 million.) With the population growth in the early retirement age cohort (i.e., 50 to 65 years of age), coupled with the aging of the 'Echo Boom,' ski industry analysts expect unprecedented pressure to be placed on the nation's winter sports facilities, especially those facilities in close proximity to population centers.</p> <p>In 2005-2006, Washington ski area operators fell just shy of setting an <u>all-time, single season attendance record</u> with 2.14 million visits (the single season record of 2.15 million visits was set in 2001-2002). While El Niño significantly influenced the winter of 2002-2003, and a region-wide drought devastated the Washington state operations in 2004-2005, Washington has witnessed a statistically significant upswing in visitation in the past five seasons, with two of Washington state's all-time best ski seasons occurring during that timeframe. Mt. Spokane's visitation mirrors Washington state's aggregate visitation (see attached).</p> <p>Safe Ski Trail Densities</p> <p>With the demand for snow sports projected to grow, Washington state ski area operators must size and invest in their facilities to ensure adequate capacity for safe and comfortable skiing and snowboarding. Mt. Spokane's peak attendance in the next decade is projected to be significantly greater than peak attendance witnessed in the 1980s and 1990s, largely because of Spokane, Washington's sustained population growth and because a growing number of Mt. Spokane's guests are choosing to focus the majority of their skiing and</p>	Ok.

snowboarding on weekends during the months of January and February. As a result, it is vital that Mt. Spokane be allowed to expand so the facility is able to provide safe and uncongested ski trails – especially during periods of peak attendance when Mt. Spokane’s guest population is comprised of guests with limited ski and snowboard skills.

Long-term Economic Sustainability

The PNSAA is pleased to see the Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission and the ski area managers address a key deficiency in Mt. Spokane’s existing ski facility. As currently configured, the Mt. Spokane operation is utterly reliant upon south-facing slopes. In most winters, Mt. Spokane’s deep snowpacks weather the highly erosive elements of south-facing slopes – solar exposure and wind – without detriment to its operation. However, as the region-wide drought illustrated during the winter of 2004-2005, ski facilities with south-facing aspects are especially susceptible to dramatic reductions in their operating season (e.g., Mt. Spokane had a 29-day ‘fiscal year’ during the winter of 2004-2005). Expansion into terrain with a northern aspect will not only yield a very high quality recreational experience, and better, overall snow quality, it will help add resilience to the financial performance of the ski area. During years of modest natural snowfall, north-facing slopes will enjoy deeper snowpacks and will allow Mt. Spokane to open earlier in the winter and help the facility operate later into the ski season.

Optimizing Recreational Potential

There are many facets that make ski area operations unique. Topography, slope gradient requirements, solar and wind exposure, avalanche hazard, fish and wildlife habitat limitations, cultural resources, and vehicular access are just a few of myriad issues that help determine the suitability of lands for ski area development. Given the complex and controversial approval process associated with the development of new ski areas (recall the Early Winters planning exercise in the 1990s), any increase in Washington state’s aggregate ski area capacity will likely necessitate the expansion of the state’s network of existing ski facilities. Because land suitable for alpine skiing and snowboarding is so limited, it is important to make optimal use of the land contiguous to existing ski areas. Operators of Mt. Spokane are seeking to enhance and expand its existing winter sports facility in light of the documented growth in the demand for skiing and snowboarding and the economic need to help the ski area perform at a higher level during unseasonably dry winters.

Expanding the Collection of Alpine Terrain

Family-oriented, winter sports facilities must provide a carefully planned progression of lifts and trails – alpine offerings that help park visitors develop skills and gain confidence. An optimally designed facility provides a first-time beginner with an enjoyable, introductory experience. It nurtures the skier/snowboarder, and helps build athleticism and sense of achievement. Enhanced skiing/snowboarding proficiency, in turn, leads to a bigger mountain experience (i.e., park visitors are able to enjoy more of the mountain setting), higher levels of satisfaction with the park, and the higher likelihood of return visits to the Mt. Spokane winter sports facility.

<p>Mt. Spokane's expansion onto north-facing slopes will improve how Mt. Spokane's lifts and trails function as an integrated network. The expansion proposal is the result of careful analysis of the application of uphill lift conveyance to existing and proposed alpine terrain of various degrees of difficulty. As noted earlier, expansion into north-facing terrain is a critical component of Mt. Spokane's future because it enhances the recreational experience in a significant fashion and helps improve the functioning of the facility during periods of limited natural snowfall.</p> <p>Environmental Stewardship</p> <p>Ski areas have operated in the Pacific Northwest for more than 75 years. An example of today's "light on the land" approach is the operator's use of advanced mapping technologies to map precise locations of known, high value resources like wetlands, riparian areas, critical habitat, areas of geologic instability, and the like. Mt. Spokane managers will develop ski trails with natural resources in mind. Trails will avoid the park's sensitive areas, which will help harmonize ski area operations with the natural functions of the ecosystem.</p> <p>With the use of ski area-specific best management practices, Mt. Spokane will ensure effective stewardship of state park lands. The PNSAA has every confidence that Mt. Spokane will satisfy the intent of the state's relevant long-range planning documents, fulfill all of the watershed restoration conditions that are requested during the course of environmental impact statement analysis, and continue to be dedicated stewards of state park land.</p> <p>Mt. Spokane is committed to ensuring environmentally sound development of winter sport offerings. The industry is sustainable in the long run and will continue to be of tremendous social and economic benefit to nearby communities. (Most agree that Mt. Spokane State Park provides countless recreational opportunities, a unique setting for meaningful conservation education programs, noteworthy seasonal employment, and tax revenues that help fund essential government services.) It is imperative that Mt. Spokane's existing winter sports facility be allowed to evolve and take steps forward to help accommodate the marketplace demand for skiing and snowboarding. Equally important, it is critical that Mt. Spokane be allowed to develop the components of a winter sports facility that help sustain the ski facility in the highly competitive local and regional ski markets. Accordingly, the PNSAA Board of Directors urges you to support the study of terrain expansion at Mt. Spokane.</p> <p>If you have questions, or if I can clarify any of these comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at (541) 386-9600.</p> <p>Best regards,</p> <p>PACIFIC NORTHWEST SKI AREAS ASSOCIATION</p>	
I support chair 2 expansion	ok
I have lived in the Spokane area for over thirty years and have owned a ski area for over ten years. Mount Spokane Ski Area is one of the greatest recreation facilities in the Spokane area.	ok

<p>The development proposed for the alpine skiing is long over due and represents the modern evolution of ski area management. You are lucky to have the current management team that is in place at Mount Spokane.</p> <p>I support the expansion of the ski area and surrounding activities.</p>	
<p>We have had season tickets for Mountain Spokane on and off, mostly on in the last 26 years. Our children learned to ski at Mt. Spokane and have developed a love of the sport and of our local area. Mt. Spokane has been affordable and a convenient destination for all of us to ski. We would love to see growth on our mountain, opening the Northwest bowl would be awesome. Taking chair 2 to the lodge would decrease congestion at the bottom of 5 and move skiers quicker. It's time for the growth and we are in support of it.</p>	ok
<p>I'm writing in support of this most important use of Mt Spokane. Mt Spokane as a non-profit has been a wonderful steward of the ski area making it available to citizens of the NW part of WA State.</p> <p>I urge you to consider this in making your decision. Many of the so called "destination" resorts have priced themselves out of the price range of most citizens. Mt Spokane management have committed to keeping skiing affordable for the local population.</p> <p>I first learned to ski at Mt Spokane in the early 60's and have been able to enjoy the mountain ever since. All of my children have learned so ski there and enjoy it's access to Spokane and the surrounding area.</p>	ok
<p>Please accept this correspondence as my support for the planned expansion of the Mount Spokane Ski Area/Summer Use Area. I have been an avid skier at Mount Spokane close to 40 years and am an occasional summer user of the Park. I am currently a member of the Mount Spokane Board of Directors. My family and I have developed a great love for the Mountain, with my children learning to ski there as I did many years ago.</p> <p>As I became a more avid skier, I began to ski more on the "back side" of the Mountain in the undeveloped areas. In addition to the beauty of the area, there was always earlier and greater snow coverage. Many skiers have discovered and continue to use that portion of the Mountain for skiing today.</p> <p>I support development of this ski area on the "back side." I believe that we will be able to ski there earlier and longer. Of course, it will open more area for skiers, reducing congestion. I believe this expansion will also attract new skiers who might have been using other areas in the community. Finally, it will provide additional recreation areas for summer use.</p>	ok
<p>My comments regarding the future of Mt. Spokane Nordic Skiing Area;</p> <p>For my family (wife, inlaws, two small children 2 and 4) the Mt. Spokane Nordic Skiing Area is an important part of our winter.</p> <p>We usually make it up to ski 5-10 times pr. year. We pull the kids on sleds (pulks) to the Nova Hut and there we stop for sandwiches and hot cocoa. From here the kids get to ski around the warming hut</p>	ok

<p>before we head back. It is nice to have the warming hut to be able to change the kids into snow suits.</p> <p>We never have problem parking or with snowmobiles.</p> <p>Every year we do the Langlauf. This year we will enroll our oldest child in the Nordic Kids program.</p> <p>It is a great place I hope we will be able to enjoy in the future as the kids grow.</p> <p>The only thing I miss is the lack of a lit loop. This would be a great benefit on workday nights when it is usually dark when you make it up after work. Growing up in Norway, every ski area would have at least one of the trails lit at night from sundown to 11pm. This is also the only way competitive skiers can train during the week after school or work.</p>	
<p>I have been involved with Mt. Spokane for over 25 years as a skier, ski instructor, original board member of Spokane 2000. Over this time period I have seen year round recreational usage of the State Park increase drastically. As usage increases, planned expansion is necessary to not only maintain, but protect specific areas of our state park. This plan will enable recreationalists new avenues of use. . within the boundaries of a well planned expansion.</p> <p>The caretaking of Mt. Spokane Ski and Snowboard Park under the stewardship of Spokane 2000 is, in my opinion, a valuable asset to the State Park system. The Comprehensive Ski Area Expansion Plan is not only for the growth of the ski area, but for the overall enhanced usage of this state park. I feel this Plan is much needed to not only grow the ski area for recreational users, but to maintain a good conservancy of our state park.</p>	ok
<p>I fully support the proposed expansion of the Mt Spokane Ski Area facilities. This proposal is long overdue and with so many other ski areas expanding, it is in the best interests of the Mt Spokane Ski Park to keep pace. I ski Mt Spokane approximately 5-7 times per year and would consider more if the facilities were expanded. I'm sure many other skiers and snowboarders feel as I do.</p>	ok